MUNICIPAL BOROUGH OF FLINT.

WELSH BOARD OF HEALTH
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Medical Officer's Annual Report ::

For the Year ended 31st December, 1945.

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BOROUGH OF FLINT.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Borough Council of Flint.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

I have the honour, as your Medical Officer, to present to you my Report on the health of the Borough during the year ended 31st December, 1945.

SECTION A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area.—The area of the Borough remained unchanged at the end of the year at 6,243 statutory acres.

Population.—The population, as estimated at mid-year 1945, was stated by the Registrar General to be 11,650. The corresponding figure for the year 1944 was 11,750.

Inhabited Houses.—The number of inhabited houses in the Borough at the end of the year was, according to the Council's Rate Books, 3,698. The population density, therefore, was 2.3 persons per statutory acre and the average number of persons per house 3.9.

Financial Conditions.—For the financial year 1945-46 the product of a penny rate was £240, the rateable value of the area, as at 1st April, 1945, being £61,567.

Social Conditions.—The industries referred to in my last Annual Report still provided employment for the great majority of the workers in the Borough, and I can again state that the proximity of such industries to the homes of the people did not adversely affect the health to a noticeable degree.

Vital Statistics.—To facilitate reference to the vital statistics I have set out the figures in similar tabular form to those which have appeared in past Reports, and wherever it has been possible to do so, I have shown the corresponding rates for the year under report, in respect of England and Wales as a whole, in addition to those for the previous year in respect of the Borough.

TABLE 1.—BIRTHS.

Classification.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 population. 1945.	1944.	Rate per 1000 total (live & still births). 1945.	1944.
Live Births—							
Legitimate ...	105	106	211	18.11	19.06	—	—
Illegitimate ...	7	13	20	1.71	.94	—	—
Legit. & Illegit.	112	119	321	19.82	20.00	—	—
Stillbirths—							
Legitimate ...	8	5	13	1.12	.43	53.06	20.75
Illegitmate ...	—	1	1	.08	.08	4.08	4.15
Legit. & Illegit.	8	6	14	1.20	.51	57.14	24.90
All Births ... (live & still)	120	125	254	21.02	20.51	—	—

The live-birth rate for England and Wales for the year under review was 16.1 and the still-birth rate 0.46 per 1,000 total population.

TABLE 2.—DEATHS (General) RATE.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 population. 1945.	1944.
All Ages (all Causes) ...	57	69	126	10.81	12.08

The death rate for England and Wales was 11.4 per 1,000.

TABLE 3.—DEATHS (General) ANALYSIS.

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 population.
Heart Disease	17	15	32	2.75
Causes (not otherwise specified herein)	11	11	22	1.89
Intracranial Vascular Lesions ...	6	10	16	1.37
Pneumonia	4	6	10	.86
Cancer (sites other than elsewhere specified)	4	4	8	.69
Bronchitis	4	2	6	.52
Cancer of buc., cav. & Oesoph (M), Uterus (F)	2	2	4	.34
Diseases of Circulatory System (not specified)	—	4	4	.34
Nephritis	—	4	4	.34
Premature Birth	3	—	3	.26
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	1	2	3	.26
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum...	1	1	2	.17

Cause of Death.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 population.
Digestive Diseases (not specified)...	—	2	2	.17
Violence (other than those herein specified)	1	1	2	.17
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	2	—	2	.17
Congenital Malformation, Birth Injury, Infantile Diseases	—	1	1	.085
Cancer of Breast	—	1	1	.085
Diabetes	—	1	1	.085
Diphtheria	—	1	1	.085
Other Respiratory Diseases... ...	1	—	1	.085
Road Traffic Accidents	—	1	1	.085
Totals	57	69	126	10.81

Heart Disease, it will be noted, again heads the list of Causes of Death, while no death was caused (in children under the age of two years) by Diarrhœa or Whooping Cough.

TABLE 4.—DEATHS (Childbirth).

No death occured in the Borough, during the year, from or in consequence of childbirth.

TABLE 5.—DEATH RATES (Infantile).
(i.e., Infants under 1 year of age).

Classification.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 live births. 1945.	1944.	England & Wales. 1945.
Legitimate	6	—	6	26.00	49.11	—
Illegitimate	—	1	1	4.33	—	—
Legit & Illegit. ...	6	1	7	30.33	49.11	46.00

SECTION B.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Officers.—The Officers responsible for the supervision of the health of the Borough, during the year under report, were:—

Medical Officer of Health: Dr. W. A. F. Twemlow, M.R.C.S. (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (London);

Acting Town Clerk: Mr. John Calvin Hughes;

Sanitary Inspector: Mr. George Edkins Clarke, M.I.M. & C.E. (Left July, 1946);

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: Mr. Phillip Thomas Williams, A.R.I.P.H. & H., A.M.I.B.E. (Left September, 1945);

Assistant Sanitary Inspector: Mr. Jonas Harry Moore, M.R. San.I., M.R.I.P.H. & H.

Laboratory Facilities.—Swabs were sent, for bacteriological examination, to the Emergency Public Health Laboratories at Conway, and I am pleased to record that co-operation between the Laboratory and the Health Officers of the area has been excellent.

Ambulance Facilities.—An ambulance for the transport of general sickness cases is provided by a voluntary organisation, and Messrs. Courtaulds, Ltd., have one for the use of their employees.

Nursing in the Home.—This service is undertaken by the District Nursing Association who provide and maintain for the purpose a fully-trained Nurse, resident in the Borough.

It is noted from the Association's Report for the year ended 30th April, 1946, that the Nurse paid approximately 2,000 visits to patients in their homes during that year.

The local Voluntary Aid Detachment and the St. John Ambulance Brigade also rendered valuable service in this connection during the year under report.

Midwifery.—Five qualiified midwives practised domiciliary midwifery in the area during the year; two of these were employed by the County Council.

Negotiations are proceeding for the purchase of a suitable building in the Borough for use as a Maternity Home. The need for this service will be appreciated when it is remembered that at present the nearest public Maternity Homes are situate respectively at Mancot, near Hawarden, and at Prestatyn.

Treatment Clinics and Centres.—The following Table gives particulars of the Centres and Clinics at which facilities for consultation and/or treatment are available to the residents of the Borough:—

Clinic.	Situation.	Dates and Times of Opening.
Tuberculosis		
(Provided by the Welsh Nat. Memorial Association under arrangements made by the County Council).	Cottage Hospital, Holywell.	Every Tuesday, 10-30 a.m.
	Oaklands, Queensferry.	Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Clinic.	Situation.	Dates and Times of Opening.
Venereal Diseases		
(Under arrangements made by the County	Royal Infirmary, Chester.	Males: Every Wednesday, 5—7 p.m. Every Saturday, 12 noon–2 p.m. Females: Every Monday, 5—7 p.m. Every Thursday, 5—7 p.m.
Ante-Natal		
(Provided by County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	First & 3rd Thursdays of month, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon.
Infant Welfare and Post-Natal		
(Provided by County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	Every Monday, 1-30–4-30 p.m. Medical Officer attends 2nd & 4th Monday each month.
School Clinic		
(Provided by County Council).	The Clinic, Boro' Grove, Flint.	Every Tuesday, 9-30 a.m.—12 noon.
Orthopædic		
(Provided by County Council).	Holywell—Cottage Hospital.	2nd & 4th Friday each month, 10 a.m.—12 noon.
	Rhyl—Old Emmanuel School, Vale Road.	2nd & 4th Friday each month, 1-30—3-30 p.m.
	Shotton—New Clinic, Central School.	1st & 3rd Friday each month, 10-30 a.m. 1-30 p.m.

Hospitals (Public and Voluntary).—As will be seen from the following figures taken from the Report for the year ended 30th April, 1946, excellent service was provided by the Flint Cottage Hospital. The Hospital is served by four local Medical Practitioners acting as Honorary Medical Officers. During the period above-mentioned no fewer than 412 persons were treated as in-patients, involving 200 operations (116 of which were of a major character). 138 persons attended the Hospital as out-patients, involving a total of 555 dressings. Seven patients died in the Hospital during the year. The average stay per patient was 9½ days.

The new X-Ray Unit was quite extensively used. The number of X-Ray photographs taken during the year was 186 and 285 films were used.

A number of cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Chester Royal Infirmary either privately or through the Deeside Hospitals Council's "Penny-in-the-Pound" Scheme.

In addition to the foregoing, provision is made by the Flintshire County Council for the treatment of the sick and infirm at their two Public Assistance Hospitals at Holywell and St. Asaph.

Maternity Homes.—Accommodation, provided by the Flintshire County Council, is available to women resident in the Borough, at the Catherine Gladstone Maternity Home, Mancot, and at the Chatsworth House Maternity Home, Prestatyn. Fees for accommodation in the general wards are assessed in accordance with an income scale. Accommodation is also provided in private wards at the first above-mentioned Home on payment of a moderate fee.

The only provision, in this respect, are outside the Borough, and cannot be considered as adequate. The Council have shown awariness of the pressing need for better facilities, and are now exploring some avenue for improvement.

Public Mortuary.—The only provision existing at present is at the Flint Cottage Hospital, and we are entirely dependent on the good graces of the Board. This, in itself, is entirely inadequate. Consideration must then be given to the provision of a perfectly equipped Public Mortuary sufficient for the needs of the Borough.

SECTION C.

Water and Water Supplies.—The whole of the area was satisfactorily supplied with water during the year and the sources from which the supply is obtained remained unchanged. The extension of the main to the Leadbrook area has now been completed, and the old and less satisfactory supply has been discontinued.

There still remain a few isolated dwellings dependent for their water supply from springs and wells. Such supplies are kept under supervision by your Health Officers.

There has been no occasion for action to be taken in respect of any form of contamination.

Drainage and Sewerage.—Work on the sewerage system for Bagillt, referred to in my last Report, has commenced, and it is hoped that, with improving general conditions work will be accelerated and so bring the scheme to early completion. The importance of extending the sewerage scheme to cover the maximum area of the Borough cannot be too strongly emphasised, and I am confident that this very essential service will be kept well to the fore in the Authority's plans for improvement and development.

Public Cleansing.—Household refuse tips were treated with an effective insecticide in order to reduce to a minimum the risk of the spread of infection and contamination by flies. The Authority is contemplating the purchase of new Collecting Vehicles of modern design. These, it is hoped, will contribute considerably to the elimination of the dust nuisance caused, unavoidably, by the less efficient methods of loading at present in operation. Consideration is also being given to the question of purchasing a Mechanised Gully Emptier and Street Washer combined with a Mechanical Cesspool Emptier. Although the cost of these machines is somewhat prohibitive, the acquisition of such equipment would undoubtedly contribute much toward a higher standard of sanitation for the Borough with the consequent general improvement in the health of the residents.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—As will be observed from the following Table, sanitary defects and complaints which came to the notice of the Authority's Officers during the year were promptly and effectively dealt with.

TABLE 6.—SANITARY INSPECTION and SUPERVISION.

Inspection of	Dwelling Houses	6
do.	Tents, Vans and Sheds... ...	2
do.	Courts, Yards and Passages ...	1
do.	W.C., Privy, Earth and Pail Closets	8
do.	Offensive Accumulations ...	2
do.	Rodent Infestation	19
do.	Rodent Treatment	24
Number of Cesspools emptied		35
Defective House Drainage		295
Infectious Disease Visits and Re-visits... ...		78
Fumigations and Disinfection		37
Additional Fumigations		23
Total Inspections, etc.		530

TABLE 7.—MISCELLANEOUS COMPLAINTS
(for which Notices were issued).

Lopping of Hedges...	5
To abate a Nuisance	1
Supply of Dustbins...	58

Schools.—No serious epidemic of infectious disease was experienced during the year under report. The incidence of Diphtheria, which gave rise to considerable anxiety in the previous year, declined during the year under report. Co-operation between your Health Department and that of the County Authority was well maintained throughout the year.

SECTION D.

Housing.—Very considerable progress has been made towards the provision of adequate housing in the area. Preparatory work has commenced on the Chester Road site and 70 pre-fabricated Arcon Type Bungalows are in course of erection.

Plans are also being prepared for 60 permanent houses, and land, in the Wern area of Bagillt, has been reserved for still further development.

It will be seen, therefore, that the Authority is fully alive to the pressing urgency of this very important section of its Social and Health Services.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk and Milk Supplies.—During the year, three inspections were carried out at farms in the area. Conditions were, in each case, found to be satisfactory.

No complaints with regard to the quality of the milk supplied within the Borough were received during the year under report. The greater part of the supply is pasteurised milk.

Bakehouses.—These were inspected during the year and found to be satisfactory.

Meat and Other Foods Condemned.—Consequent upon the routine visits and inspections of shops and food depôts, it was found necessary to condemn and dispose of the following items of food as unfit for human consumption:—7 tins chopped ham,

93 lbs. soft fruit, 48 tins luncheon pork, 87 tins milk, 17 tins vegetables, 22 tins beef, 149 tins fish, 25 stone wet fish, 7 tins soup, 30¼ lbs. bacon, 1 box prunes, 1 tin sausage meat, 1 tin mincemeat, 19 tins beans, 27 tins Army rations, 60 lbs. oranges, 572 lbs. biscuits, 3 jars jam, 7 jars pickles, 4 lbs. semolina, 1 cwt. Danish butter, 4½ lbs. cooking fat, 2 tins cream.

Of the above, the following were collected from the Ministry of Food Buffer Depôts in the Borough:—27 tins Army rations, 3 tins beef, 73 tins fish.

The 572 lbs. of biscuits referred to were destroyed by fire.

Adulteration.—The County Council is the Authority responsible for the analysis of food.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis).

TABLE 8.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Name of Disease.	No. of Cases Notified.	Admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever	8	—	—
Diphtheria	33	32	—
Whooping Cough	7	—	—
Measles	124	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	36	—	—
Erysipelas	3	—	—
Totals	211	—	—

TABLE 9.

ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The figures shown in Column 1 of the foregoing Table are analysed in age groups below:—

Disease.	Number of Cases notified as having occurred among persons of the ages immediately below specified.										
	0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65-	U'kn	Tota
Scarlet Fever ...	...	1...	2...	3...	1...	1...	...	...	...	...	8
Diphtheria ...	...	...	8...	12...	6...	4...	3...	...	...	...	33
Whooping Cough..	1...	3...	2...	1...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Measles ...	7...	35...	44...	35...	2...	...	1...	...	...	...	124
Acute Pneumonia	2...	2...	5...	5...	2...	3...	5...	4...	8...	...	36
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2...	1...	...	3
Totals	...10...	41...	61...	56...	11...	8...	9...	6...	9...	...	211

Isolation.—The Authority is a constituent member of the St. Asaph Joint Hospital Board, and accommodation is provided at the Board's Isolation Hospital at St. Asaph for cases of infectious disease which occur in the Borough. All such cases are transported in the ambulance provided by the Hospital.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—The total number of cases immunised in the Borough since the commencement of the scheme up to December, 1945, was 3430 (under 5 years 1009 and over 5 years 2421) Included in the figure of 2421 are the evacuees, staff and teachers of schools and assistant cooks, those done privately, and new tenants with their families coming to reside within the Borough.

Percentage of children inoculated:—Children under 5 years: 93.4%, as against 75.5% last year; Children 5 to 15 years, 106.17%, as against 87.6% last year.

A publicity campaign was held during the year in response to a request from the Ministry of Health, consisting of poster displays, films and slides at the cinemas, and the distribution of handbills.

The County Health Visitor has again helped in every way possible by distributing forms and information cards to mothrs during her round of duty in the Borough. The response has been very good, as can be seen by the figures above.

Scabies.—Fewer cases of this disease were brought to the notice of the Authority during the year. Those which were notified, however, were found, on investigation, to have been infected outside the Borough.

Steam Fumigation.—Since the closing of the Hawarden Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital at Dobb's Hill, Hawarden, no facilities for steam fumigation of clothing, bedding, etc., have been available, within reasonable distance of the Borough.

TABLE 10.—TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases notified during the year 1945.

Age Groups.	New Cases, Pulmonary. Males.	Pulmonary. Females.	Non-Pulmonary. Males.	Non-Pulmonary. Females.	Total Cases.
0-	—	—	—	—	—
1-	—	—	—	1	1
15-	1	3	—	—	4
25-	1	2	—	—	3
35-	2	1	—	—	3
45-	—	—	—	—	—
55-	—	1	—	—	1
65-	—	—	—	—	—
All ages ...	4	7	—	1	12

Tuberculosis—Cases on the Register at end of year 1945.

Pulmonary. Males.	Pulmonary. Females.	Pulmonary. Total.	Non-Pulmonary. Males.	Non-Pulmonary. Females.	Non-Pulmonary. Total.	Total Cases.
61	33	94	19	25	44	138

The general health of the Borough was well maintained throughout the period under review.

I desire to offer my best thanks to you as a Council and to your Officers for the splendid co-operation and assistance afforded to me throughout the year.

I remain, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

W. A. F. TWEMLOW,
Medical Officer of Health.

33, Church Street,
Flint, July, 1946.